MATRIMONIAL ELIGIBILITY.

Some of the Many Various Reasons That Prompt Men to "Pop the Question.

The reasons which prompt men to make offers of marriage to women are as many and various as the number and kinds of women thus honored, says the New York Times. Not alone are the natural graces and charms of femininity the foci of attraction for the average man. Acquired accomplishments often count for a great deal, and it frequently happens that women are eagerly desired for qualifications, which, while strongly appealing to those who desire them, would not in the least appeal to others occupying a different point of view.

These very general and not altogether luminous reflections are suggested by a news item which reaches us from northern New York of an avalanche of marriage offers which has overwhelmed two estimable young women, the daughters of a farmer at Schuyler. They are not described as beautiful. So far as we are advised, they are not distinguished for accomplishments of the kind which make for social preeminence. Perhaps they are not more amiable, more affectionate, nor more practical in the general duties of housewifery than others. Their claim to distinction is that they "killed, cleaned, scalded and hung" two 300-pound hogs without masculine assistance.

Instantly an overpowering passion took possession of the heart of every eligible bachelor within what may be called buggy radius. The rural delivery carrier has had to provide himself-with a wheelbarrow to transport the offers of marriage which come by mail, and the concourse of vehicles which is strung along the paternal front fence every day and evening suggests that a continuous funeral is in progress within. Perhaps it is. A great many nascent hopes of domestic happiness along strictly bucolic lines perish in the family "settin' room" every 24 hours, and enough broten hearts are left behind by departing suitors to fertilize the farm if their fragments could be composted. The young women are said to decline, "firmly but kindly." the offers of marriage which are pressed upon them. It may be that their unique claim to distinction puts there in a class which makes it an impertinence for the suitor to offer them the commonplace life of the farmer's wife, who can count upon a hog killing not oftener than once a year. Their sphere of social triumphs obviously lies in Cincinnati or Chicago.

THE WAYS OF SQUIRRELS. Peculiarities of Voice and Action of

the Animals in Summer and Winter.

"One of the most familiar sounds of the summer woods is the rattling bark of the red squirrel," writes an observer. "The tones of his voice are varied and there is a great difference between his angry bark, his cry of fear, the chattering monologue with which he addresses an intruder on his domain, the running fire of repartee which is the constant accompaniment of the antics of a pair a play, and the long rattling roll call which he utters apparently from sheer enjoyment of the sound or as a challenge to some unseen enemy of his own tribe and which reverberates through the woods often with sufficient force to carry the sound for as much as half to three-quarters of a mile. If we listen for an instant when we hear one of these challenges sent forth we may hear it answered from some distant point, so faintly that we cannot be certain that it is not an echo. Some other male has heard the challenge and, detecting the self-satisfied note in it. has answered, and we may be fairly certain that they are hastening toward each other, each with the intention of annihilating his foe or at least teaching him a lesson.

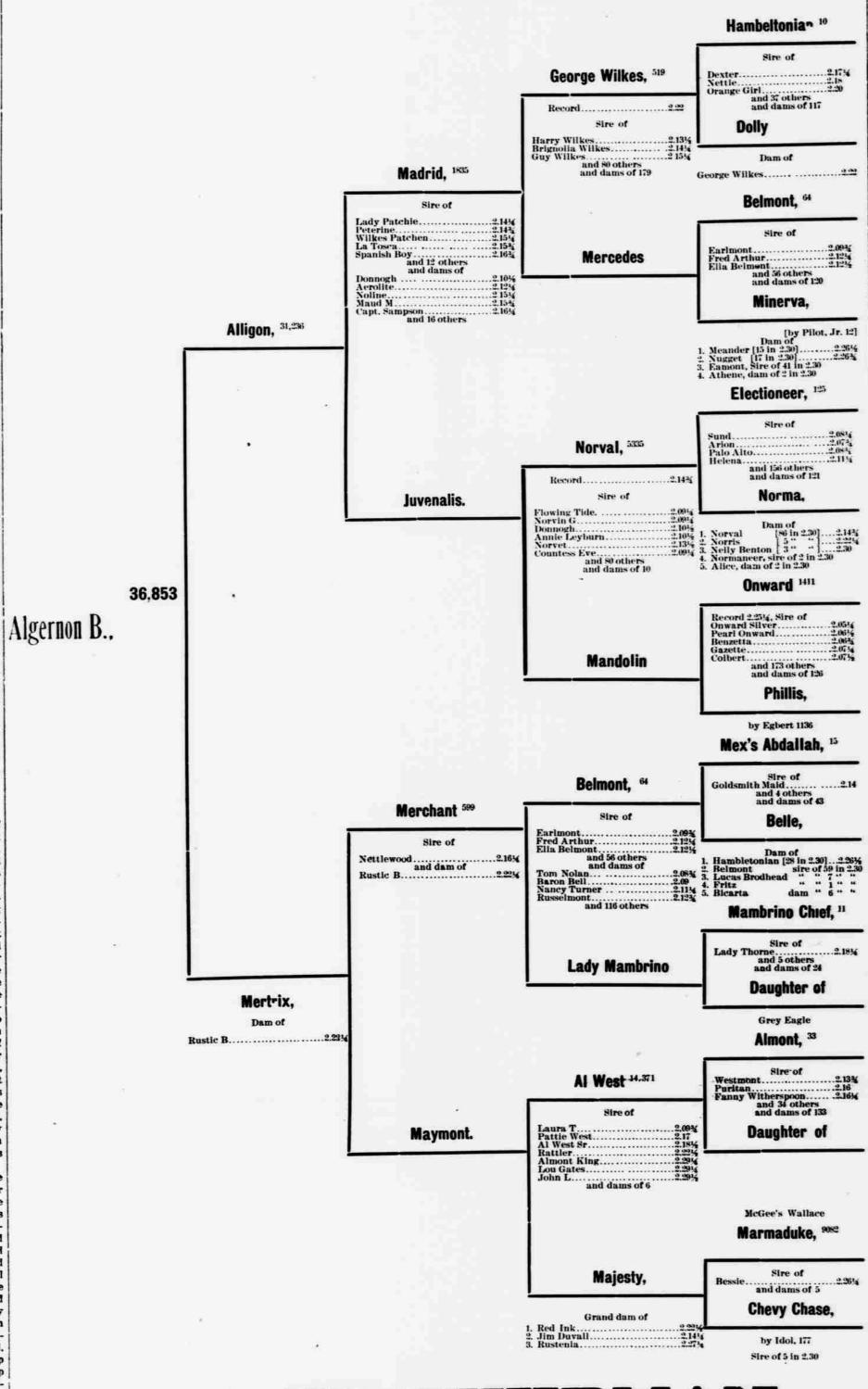
"Gray squirrels, unlike most of the rodents, do not hibernate in the winter time, but are abroad and very active during most of the season. Their nests are then in hollow trees, but they usually leave these retreats in March and build airier and less vermin-infested abodes in the treetops of leaves and twigs. If you can watch a gray squirrel gathering nuts in the fall you will see him take a nut in his cheek pouch and hop along the ground, testing it every few yards with his front feet. When he has found a spot entirely to his liking he will scoop out a shallow hole and, placing the nut in it, will cover it up with the loose earth. This he will stamp down and restore to its former condition by scraping the loose leaves and small stones over it.

"This performance he repeats again and again in that and other localities, until he has hidden away in this manner a large quantity of nuts, one squirrel often burying several hundred. In the winter, as he needs them, he unearths these nuts, and it is wonderful how unerringly he can go to his various caches, even though, as frequently happens, they may all be covered with a foot or more of snow."

Cheap College Degrees.

The familiar charge that the degree LL. D. is bestowed with too lavish a hand by colleges and universities is likely to gain force from a recent occurrence. The South Carolina college, at Columbia, celebrating its centennial. was moved by the joy of the occasion to affix the honorific letters to 36 men. It was not supposed that there were three dozen persons of distinction in the country whom the other colleges had not already labeled .- N. Y. Tribune.

Clara-You don't mean to say that DRS. PITTS, BLUNK & PITTS. at 50 he is making love to you? Isn't that rather young for an old man? Maud-Yes. But he is the most precocious old man I ever met.-N. Y.



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THESMALLSMUGGLER

PERSON WHO TRIES TO EVADE DUTY ON MERE TRIFLES.

Vigilance of Customs Officers Is Gradually Stamping Out the Practice - Operations of Professionals.

"Petty smuggling, the sort that is practiced by people who have bought some small articles abroad and want to bring them home without paying duty, is now being pretty well stamped out," said a man who was for several years in the United States customs service on the Pacific coast to a Kansas City Journal writer. "Of course, there never was so much of it in the west as on the Atlantic coast, but the vigilance of the customs officials and the severe penalties imposed on people who have been caught has had a tendency to break it up pretty thoroughly.

"As a general thing the people who try to smuggle in dutiable goods are now of two classes, the one composed of professional smugglers, who operate on a large scale, and the other of actresses and wealthy people of a certain sort, who take no particular pains to avoid detection, and who enjoy the notoriety which an escapade of the sort gives them.

"On the Pacific coast the two things to which the operations of smugglers are almost entirely confined are opium and silks. Both have to pay heavy duties, and both are comparatively easily concealed. Much of the silk brought in from China and Japan is of such fine texture that four or five ordinary sized handkerchiefs could be concealed in an English walnut shell.

"Some unique methods are used by opium smugglers. One day the wharfinger at San Francisco was standing near his office when he saw a lime fly over a high fence which inclosed a vacant lot just adjoining the wharf. Before long another one came in the same way. He thought nothing of it at first, as the boys are quite in the habit of throwing things at the rats around the wharfs. But when they kept on coming his curiosity began to be aroused. He stepped over to where the limes were falling, and where there were by that time probably a dozen of them, picked one up and cut it open. He found a small plug had been cut from the lime, as though with a leather punch, the hole filled with small pills of opium wrapped in oiled paper, and the outside part of the plug returned to its place. The limes had been thrown from the deck of a ship at anchor at the wharf to the vacant lot, where the smuggler expected to

pick them up later. "Of late the center of the opium smuggling has been transferred from San Francisco to the ports farther north, as the men who were operating in that line became too well known to San Francisco officials. Now most of them come in through Portland, or further north, in the British posses sions, where I understand the Canadian officials are now having a great deal of trouble.

"It was the custom for some time to allow a great deal of liberty to army officers returning from the Philippines, and to take their statements as to the dutiable goods in their possess without a very thorough investigation. But it was found that the privilege was being abused, and a stricter search was instituted. Shortly afterward a captain came through, with three big trunks, and declared that he had practically nothing of a dutiable nature. An inspection showed that in the bottom of one of his trunks were whole bolts of valuable silks, which he lost altogether by trying to cheat the government which he served."

Indian Novels by Indian Writers. Of late years the number of writers among the Cherokees has greatly increased. There are historians in the tribe whose works are used as textbooks in the Indian schools, and who are cited as authorities not to be disputed. There are also Indians who have written codes of law which before being put in permanent form had been handed down from generation to generation. The Indians to-day obey these laws with a greater reverence than they do the laws of the United States. There are Indian novelists-novelists who devote their time to entertaining the Indian mind with romance with entangled plots and blood-curdling climaxes. These books are popular among the Indians. Edition after edition of some works is published, and they are read by buck and squaw alike.-Kansas City Journal.

Manufacture of Chartreuse.

One of the few items of foreign trade of this district in which change is shown is alcohol, which is being imported now by the Carthusian monks, lately emigrated from France, who have transferred the manufacture of their renowned chartreuse to this city. They continue to receive spirits for its manufacture from the distilleries which they owned and are suspected of owning still in other countries. It is doubtful whether they will find it economical to continue under their present management owing to the custom house duties which they tried to avoid by pleading the reexportation of alcohol after it is blended in their liquor. Drawbacks are unknown in this, the country of their adoption, and the claims were not allowed.

L. J. AGOSTINI.

A Bed Witness, Lawyer-Madam, this man, your husband, is accused of arson. Will you swear that he has a mania for building fires?

Witness-No, sir! He never got up in his life until I'd built all the fires in the house.—Detroit Free Press.